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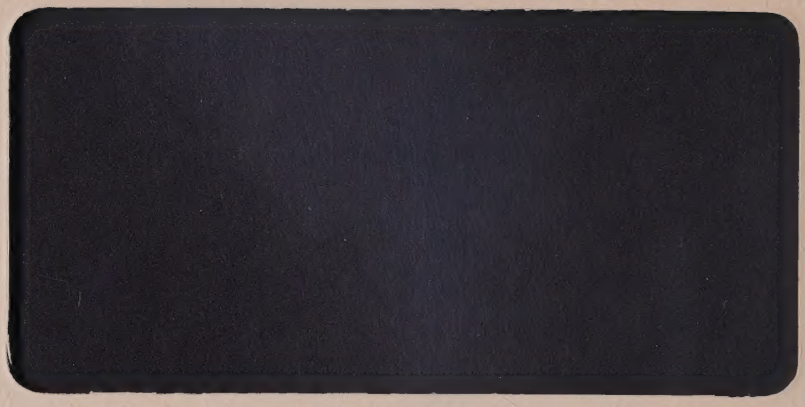
INSTRUCTION MANUAL

MODEL 410
and
MODEL 410C

MICRO-MICROAMMETER

KEITHLEY INSTRUMENTS, INC.
CLEVELAND, OHIO



INSTRUCTION MANUAL

MODEL 410
and
MODEL 410C

MICRO-MICROAMMETER

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We warrant each of our products to be free from defects in material and workmanship. Our obligation under this warranty is to repair or replace any instrument or part thereof, except tubes, transistors, fuses, and batteries, which, within a year after shipment to the original buyer, proves defective on examination.

DAMAGE IN SHIPMENT

Be sure to include the instrument model number and serial number in all communications. If the instrument is damaged when received, or fails to operate properly, a claim should be filed with the carrier. Upon receipt of the claim agent's report, we will inform you regarding repair or replacement.

REPAIRS

When returning an instrument for repair or recalibration, it should be securely packed against shipping damage and sent to the factory, freight prepaid. A brief letter describing the difficulty should accompany the instrument.

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SECTION I INTRODUCTION

Model 410

The Keithley Model 410 Micro-microammeter is a line operated vacuum tube electrometer designed and constructed especially for measuring small currents. Full scale ranges are from 10^{-3} to 3×10^{-13} ampere.

The features include full-scale voltage drop at the input of less than five millivolts, zero drift of less than 2% of full scale in eight hours, good accuracy and calibration stability, and simplicity of operation. It also has an output which will drive a 0-1 or 0-5 milliampere recorder as well as the numerous potentiometer - rebalance recorders; one output terminal is at ground, making it convenient to connect cathode ray oscilloscopes or pen-driving amplifiers, similar to the Brush and Sanborn equipment.

The major panel controls are the range switch (amperes full-scale) and the zero. Minor controls are the Zero Check, used to short circuit the input and in setting the zero, Meter Polarity for providing up-scale readings for currents flowing in either direction, and an ON-OFF power switch. The meter dial is illuminated, and these bulbs serve as the pilot light.

Model 410C

The Keithley Model 410C is identical to the Model 410, except that the panel meter is provided with contacts which can be set to close at any predetermined meter pointer deflection. The delicate contacts of the meter operate a relay in the 410C, and the relay contacts (SPDT) are available for external switching functions through an AN connector on the rear of the chassis.

Response Speed, both models

The 410 and 410C are shipped with capacitors shunting the range resistors on the 10^{-8} through 10^{-12} ampere ranges. The capacitors damp the response, limiting the amplification of spurious disturbances, and preventing overshoot and ringing when a square pulse of current is applied and input cable capacitance is as much as 5000 micro-microfarads. Such damping is usually preferred when long input cables are used, as with remote ion chambers. When maximum speed is desired, as in some production tests, and very short input cables are being used, the capacitors may simply be removed from the range switch. See details on page II-2.

SECTION II DESCRIPTION

Twenty overlapping current ranges, from 10 x 10^{-4} ampere to 3 x 10^{-13} ampere are selected by the Amperes Full Scale switch, located left of the Meter. The accuracy of the ranges from 10 x 10^{-4} through 3 x 10^{-7} is within 2%, 10 x 10^{-9} through 3 x 10^{-13} is within 4%.

Input Impedance is controlled by negative feedback from the output so that the voltage drop across the input terminals is less than 5 millivolts for full-scale meter deflection. This is based on proper zero setting; if the meter needle is not set at zero, with zero input current, about 3 millivolts constant potential per percent of full scale are added to the five millivolts.

The Input Connector is located on the back face of the chassis. It is a UHF connector with teflon insulation, and accepts a standard teflon insulated mating plug. The plug and lead wires or cable should be extremely well insulated to prevent the leakage of the small currents. A cap is provided for keeping dirt out when the instrument is stored.

Input Switch Labelled ZERO CHECK is located to the left of the Range Switch. When depressed, it effectively shorts the input to remove spurious charges, and provides the zero input current reference for zeroing the meter with the Zero Control.

Grid Current is less than 5 x 10^{-14} ampere, and represents the limit of measurement of a vacuum tube electrometer. This is about 15% of full-scale on the most sensitive range.

Zero Drift is less than 2% of full scale in eight hours on all ranges except 3 x 10^{-13} ampere where it is less than 4% of full scale in eight hours. These drifts include warmup from a cold start. If a two hour warm-up can be provided, the drift will be one half to one fourth of these amounts.

Zero Control- The Zero knob is located to the right of the meter and is used for zeroing the meter with zero input current. Effectively zero input current can be obtained by depressing the Zero Check button. The input must not be short-circuited. This upsets the negative feedback path and makes it impossible to zero the meter.

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It is recommended that the meter pointer not be set anywhere but zero on the meter scale with zero input current, because with the feedback used, a dc potential is developed across the input whenever the output and the panel meter are not zero for zero input current. Recorders, of course, can be biased to any part of their scale for zero volts at the Model 410 output.

Output is provided for driving recorders. The amplifier will develop 5 volts for full-scale meter deflection, and 5 milliamperes can be drawn without upsetting the circuits. The OUTPUT connector is at the rear of the chassis. The connection details and suitable output attenuators are discussed in OPERATION, Section III.

Response Speed of the 410 depends upon the current range being used and also upon the capacitance of the external circuitry. On the less sensitive ranges the speed is limited by the amplifier response, which is from dc to approximately 1,000 cps. On the ranges from 3×10^{-8} to 10×10^{-12} amperes the speed has been reduced to about 1.0 second by the addition of capacitors across the range resistors. On the three most sensitive ranges, shunt capacitance across the input limits the response speed. Because of the method of application of the negative feedback, the slowing effects of capacitance from the high input terminal to ground have been greatly reduced, but are still significant. Table I below gives typical response speeds; viz; the time constant of the response to a step function.

TABLE I

TYPICAL RESPONSE SPEEDS (to read 67% of final value)

Ranges	No significant external capacitance		with 5000 mmf across the input	
	Undamped	Damped	Undamped	Damped
3×10^{-13}	2.2 seconds	2.2 seconds	4 seconds	4 seconds
1×10^{-12}	1.0 "	1.0 "	2 "	2 "
1×10^{-11}	0.15 "	1.0 "	.5 "	1.0 "
1×10^{-10}	0.10 "	0.5 "	.2 "	1.0 "
1×10^{-9}	0.05 "	0.5 "	.1 "	1.0 "
1×10^{-8}	0.01 "	0.5 "	.05 "	1.0 "

If the maximum speed of response is desired, the capacitors shunting the range resistors may be removed; however the increased response to spurious ac signals may interfere with recording, as mentioned in Section I.

Amplifier Noise is principally power frequency, and is 30 millivolts rms max at the output terminals, irrespective of the current range. From the most general point of view, grid current and amplifier zero drift are also background noise; these have already been discussed.

Circuit Description

The circuit diagram DR 10867-C is enclosed at the back. The amplifier consists of two 5886 electrometer tubes operated as a balanced stage, with a substantial amount of in-phase rejection. Further in-phase rejection is obtained by supplying V1 and V2 screens from V3 and V4. A triode connected 6CM6 is used as the cathode follower output stage.

Negative feedback from the output (directly, or through a low impedance divider) is accomplished through the shunt resistor to the grid of the input electrometer tube. It is this feedback which keeps the input voltage drop low.

The open loop voltage gain of the amplifier, measured from the first stage grid to the feedback connection which would normally be connected to the low impedance end of the shunt resistor, is about 2500 on the less sensitive ranges, alternates between 1500 and 500 on the middle ranges, and is 150 on the 3×10^{-13} ampere range. This assures a low input drop.

To insure low drift, the feedback-voltage (the voltage drop across the high resistance range resistors) is made large and alternates between 1.0 volt and 3.0 volts for most of the ranges. On the 10×10^{-8} ampere range and those less sensitive it is 5.0 volts, while on the 3×10^{-13} ampere range (the instrument's most sensitive) it is 0.3 volt. The alternation of the feedback voltage is used to economize on the very expensive high megohm resistors, so that only one is used for every decade of measured current. Table II, below, gives the value of E_F and R_S for each current range.

TABLE II

Range Amperes Full Scale	E_F volts	R_S	Resistor Accuracy %
10×10^{-4}	5	5K	0.1
3×10^{-4}	5	16.67K	1
10×10^{-5}	5	50K	1
3×10^{-5}	5	166.7K	1
10×10^{-6}	5	500K	1
3×10^{-6}	5	1.667 Meg	1
10×10^{-7}	5	5 Meg	1
3×10^{-7}	5	16.67 Meg	1
10×10^{-8}	5	50 Meg	1
3×10^{-8}	3	10^8	1
10×10^{-9}	1	10^8	1
3×10^{-9}	3	10^9	3
10×10^{-10}	1	10^9	3
3×10^{-10}	3	10^{10}	3
10×10^{-11}	1	10^{10}	3
3×10^{-11}	3	10^{11}	3
10×10^{-12}	1	10^{11}	3
3×10^{-12}	3	10^{12}	3
10×10^{-13}	1	10^{12}	3
3×10^{-13}	0.3	10^{12}	3

The power supply is regulated by a Sola transformer. Half-wave selenium rectifiers supply the B+ and B- potentials. The filtering is conventional.

Calibration is determined by the value of the high resistance range resistors and the value of the feedback resistors. From 10^{-3} to 10^{-8} amperes, the overall accuracy is better than 2%. From 3×10^{-9} to 3×10^{-13} amperes, the accuracy is better than 4%.

The meter is connected between the output terminal and ground. When the range resistor is shorted in zeroing the instrument, the meter measures the voltage existing between the input terminal and the output terminal (which are connected together when the shorting button is pressed) and ground.

The balancing of the amplifier, with the Zero control, is done in the filament circuit of V2. This is a convenient low-impedance point and does not disturb the electrode potentials of the low grid current electrometer tube.

SECTION III OPERATION

Simplicity of operation is an outstanding characteristic of the Model 410. First connect the input to a current source, and the output to a recorder or external indicator, if desired.

Then: a) Plug the power cord into a 110 volt 60 cps outlet. Note that because a Sola resonant regulating transformer is used, the power frequency, as well as voltage, must be the proper value.

b) Turn the amperes Full Scale to the 10×10^{-4} position.

c) Turn the power switch to ON.

d) After a few minutes warmup, set the panel meter to zero with the ZERO control.

e) Advance the instrument's sensitivity with the range switch, until a usable deflection is obtained on the panel meter. The current is read directly. Attention should be paid to the METER polarity switch, so that an up-scale deflection is obtained.

f) Periodically check the zero setting by operating the ZERO CHECK switch and rezeroing the meter if necessary.

Input, using cabling

The current source should be connected to the input connector with the high impedance side of the current source associated with central conductor of the connector. The lead-in cable should be polyethylene, polystyrene, or teflon insulated coaxial cable, and the connector should have teflon insulation. Amphenol type 83-756 or equivalent is recommended. During preparation of cable and connectors, it is essential that all high impedance surfaces be kept scrupulously clean to avoid leakage. With graphite coated cable, it is necessary to avoid tracking graphite onto the high impedance surfaces of the cut end of the insulation and the teflon surface of the connector. Movement of the cable during measurement should be avoided since this will cause spurious needle movements, because of capacitance changes and generation of static charges.

GRID CURRENT in the Model 410 is less than 5×10^{-14} ampere - usually about 2×10^{-14} ampere. It can be read directly on the 3×10^{-13} ampere range after carefully shielding the high impedance input conductor such as by screwing the connector cap on.

The grid current can be subtracted algebraically from the total current read on the meter to give the correct current in the circuit being measured - on the most sensitive ranges.

RECORDING: The Model 410 is provided with a connector on the rear of the chassis for recording. The output for full-scale meter deflection is ± 5 volts. The maximum current that may be drawn from the output terminals is 5 milliamperes. This output is suitable for driving one and five milliampere recorders as well as recorders employing an amplifier. Cinch-Jones S-202-B is the chassis connector, P-202-CCT is the mating plug. Terminal #1 is ground.

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Table III gives resistance to be used in series with one and five milliampere recording milliammeters, to make the recorder full-scale deflection equal the panel meter full-scale deflection.

TABLE III

Recorder	Series Resistance
1 m.a.	3.3 to 3.7K
5 m.a.	920 to 940

The exact series resistance varies from recorder to recorder, and a portion of the series resistance should be adjustable so that the recorder may be calibrated exactly against the panel meter.

A suitable voltage divider for more sensitive recorders can easily be made, keeping in mind that 5 volts appear at the output terminals for full-scale deflection of the panel meter, and that a 1000 ohm divider will not draw too much output current and will be sufficiently low impedance to connect to amplifier inputs.

The Speed of Response, or the time constant of an input transducer and micro-microammeter, depends upon the speed of response of the circuitry of the instrument and also upon the capacitance of the current source and its connecting cable. Because of the way the negative feedback is applied in the Model 410, the external input capacitance is not nearly as important as in systems using a voltmeter across a shunting resistor, and quite large capacitances can be tolerated without having an impossibly slow response. Thus, a cable run from an ion chamber to the micro-microammeter is permissible.

The internal time constant of the Model 410 depends upon both the frequency response of the amplifier stages and the time constants of the high megohm range resistors and the associated distributed capacitances. These change from range to range on the 410, the speed decreasing as the sensitivity is increased. Table I in Section II, Description, gives quantitative values.

±216 Volts. A connector has been mounted on the back face of the chassis to provide ±216 volts for polarizing an ion chamber. The potential is derived from 2 0B2 voltage regulator tubes, and is well filtered. The supply can be short circuited without damaging it. The chassis connector is Cinch-Jones S101, and P101 is the mating plug.

SECTION IV MAINTENANCE

The Keithley Model 410 Micro-microammeter has been designed to give long, trouble-free service. High quality components have been used throughout, and the circuits are stabilized by a substantial amount of negative feedback.

DR 10867-C, at the back, is the detailed circuit schematic diagram of the Model 410. The circuit operation was discussed in Section II, Description.

Maintenance Adjustments

One maintenance control is provided. It is accessible from the top of the chassis, and is located behind the meter.

R138, METER CALIBRATION, is in series with the Meter. To recalibrate, use the 10×10^{-4} range and, with 7×10^{-4} ampere through the input circuit, adjust R138 so the meter reads exactly 7.0. Since the shunt resistor on this range is accurate to 0.1% of its nominal value the overall accuracy can be adjusted to about 1% of full scale. On the 3×10^{-4} to 10×10^{-9} ampere range the range resistors are accurate to 1% and, providing the calibration was accurately done on the 10×10^{-4} range, the overall accuracy will be 2%. From 3×10^{-9} to 3×10^{-13} amperes the range resistors are accurate to 3% and the overall accuracy will be 4%.

Vacuum Tubes V1 and V2 are the two electrometer tubes, and are located in an aluminum can which plugs onto the top of the chassis near the input terminals. The tubes have been selected, matched and labelled; V1 is Keithley part EV5886-5 and V2 is EV5886-6. The difference between the two is that EV5886-6 does not have to have low grid current. It is recommended that the complete Input Tube assembly Model 4102, be kept for replacement purposes.

The other tubes are standard receiving tubes and need no special selection to assure satisfactory performance of the Model 410.

INSULATION: All insulation for the high impedance conductors is made of teflon, as are the contact insulators on the range switch. This should give satisfactory service in all humidities. Occasionally, the high impedance insulators should be inspected to insure that they are free from dirt and dust.

CONNECTOR CAP: The cap for the input connector should be kept in place whenever the connector is not being used. In storage and in transport, it keeps the insulation from accumulating dust and dirt. Before screwing the cap back onto the connector, be certain that it is clean, so the insulation will not be contaminated.

REPLACEABLE PARTS LIST - MODEL 410, 410-C

Circuit Desig.	Description					Part No.
R-101	5 K.	WW.	1 W.	.1% wire leads	Resistor	R18-16-5K
R-102	16.67 K.	Deposited Carbon,	1 w.	1%	Resistor	R12- or R16-16.67K
R-103	50 K.	Deposited Carbon,	1 w.	1%	Resistor	R12- or R13-50K
R-104	166.7 K.	"	1 w.	1%	Resistor	R12- or R13-166.7K
R-105	500 K.	"	1 w.	1%	Resistor	R12- or R13-500K
R-106	1.667M	"	1 w.	1%	Resistor	R12- or R13-1.667M
R-107	5 M.	"	1 w.	1%	Resistor	R12- or R13-5M
R-108	16.67 M.	"	1 w.	1%	Resistor	R13-16.67M
R-109	50 M	"	2 w.	1%	Resistor	R14-50M
R-110	100M.	"	2 w.	1%	Resistor	R14-100M
R-111	10^9	HI-MEG		2%	Resistor	R20-10^9
R-112	10^{10}	"		2%	Resistor	R20-10^{10}
R-113	10^{11}	"		2%	Resistor	R20-10^{11}
R-114	10^{12}	"		2%	Resistor	R20-10^{12}
R-115	2 K	ww.	$\frac{1}{4}$ w.	.1%	Resistor	R18-15-2K
R-116	2 K	"	$\frac{1}{4}$ w.	.1%	Resistor	R18-15-2K
R-117	700	"	$\frac{1}{4}$ w.	.1%	Resistor	R18-15-700
R-118	300	"	$\frac{1}{4}$ w.	.1%	Resistor	R18-15-300
R-119	22M	Composition	$\frac{1}{2}$ w.	10%	Resistor	R1-22M
R-120	10M	Deposited Carbon	1 w.	1%	Resistor	R13-10M
R-121	10M	"	1 w.	1%	Resistor	R13-10M
R-122	200 ohm HELIPOT, Type A					RP4-200

REPLACEABLE PARTS LIST - MODEL 410, 410-C

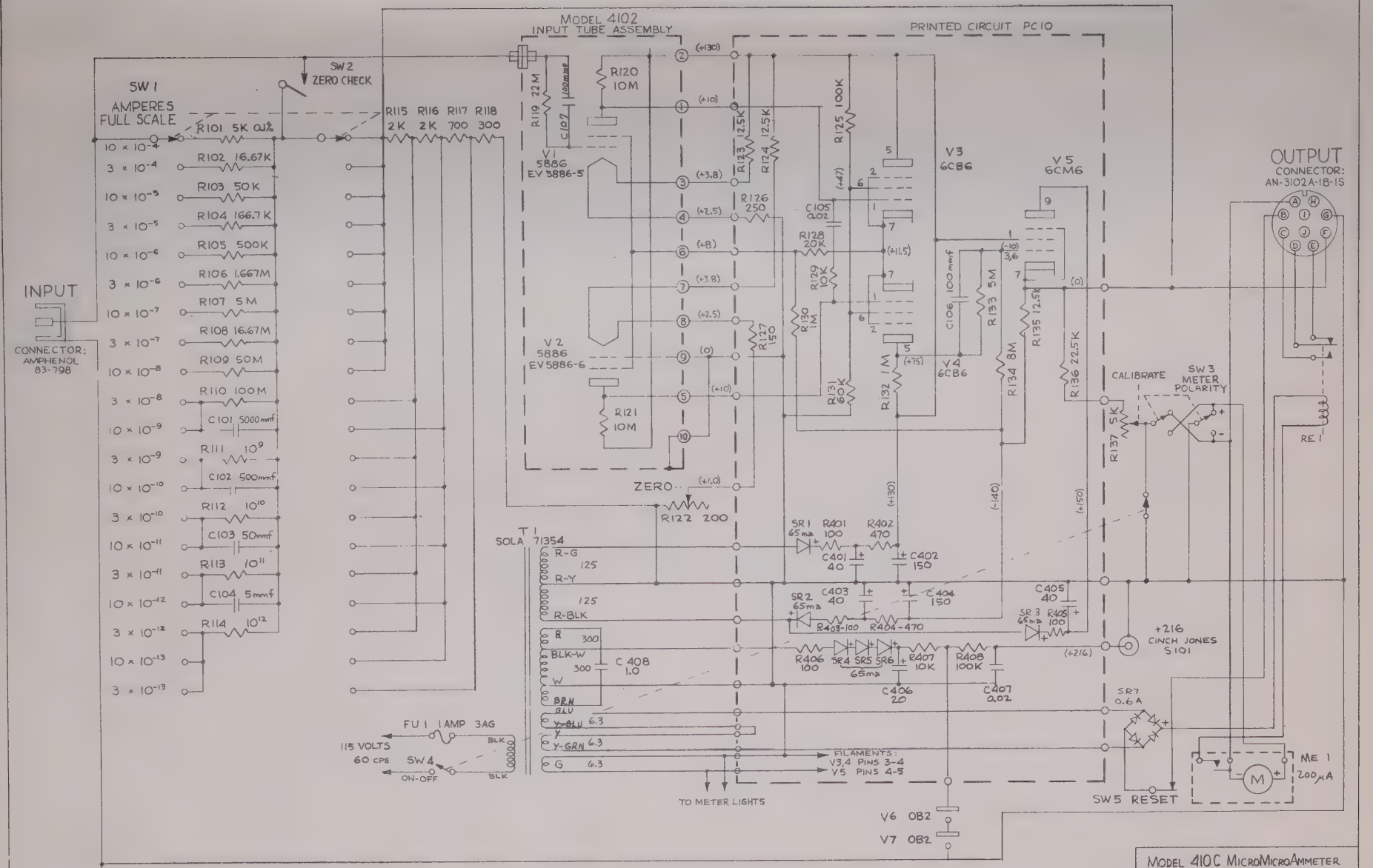
Circuit Desig.	Description				Part No.
R-123	12.5 K.	WW. PC.	7 w. 3%	Resistor	R7-12.5K
R-124	12.5 K.	" "	7 w. 3%	Resistor	R7-12.5K
R-125	100 K.	Deposited Carbon	1/3 w. 1%	Resistor	R12-100K
R-126	250	WW.	¼ w. 1%	Resistor	R18-6-250
R-127	150	"	¼ w. 1%	Resistor	R18-6-150
R-128	20 K	Deposited Carbon	1/3 w. 1%	Resistor	R12-20K
R-129	10 K	Composition	½ w. 10%	Resistor	R1-10K
R-130	1 M	Deposited Carbon	1/3 w. 1%	Resistor	R12-1M
R-131	60 K	" "	1/3 w. 1%	Resistor	R12-60K
R-132	1 M	" "	1/3 w. 1%	Resistor	R12-1M
R-133	5 M	" "	1 w. 1%	Resistor	R12- or R13-5M
R-134	8 M	" "	1 w. 1%	Resistor	R13-8M
R-135	12.5 K	WW. PC.	7 w. 3%	Resistor	R7-12.5K
R-136	22.5K	" wire leads	½ w. 1%	Resistor	R18-10-22.5K
R-137	5 K	POT WW.	2 w. 10%	Resistor	RP3-5K
R-401	100	Composition	½ w. 10%	Resistor	R1-100
R-402	470	"	½ w. 10%	Resistor	R1-470
R-403	100	"	½ w. 10%	Resistor	R1-100
R-404	470	"	½ w. 10%	Resistor	R1-470
R-405	100	"	½ w. 10%	Resistor	R1-100
R-406	100	"	½ w. 10%	Resistor	R1-100
R-407	10 K.	"	½ w. 10%	Resistor	R1-10K
R-408	100 K.	"	½ w. 10%	Resistor	R1-100K

REPLACEABLE PARTS LIST - MODEL 410, 410-C

Circuit Desig.	Description	Part No.
C-101	Capacitor, 5000 mmf	C31-5000
C-102	Capacitor, 500 mmf	C31-500
C-103	Capacitor, 50 mmf	C31-50
C-104	Capacitor, 5 mmf	C31-5
C-105	Capacitor, .02 mfd	C22-0.02
C-106	Capacitor, 100 mmf	C22-100
C-107	Capacitor, Same as C-106	
C-401	Capacitor, 40 mfd	C27-40
C-402	Capacitor, 150 mfd	C9-150
C-403	Same as C-401	
C-404	Same as C-402	
C-405	Same as C-401	
C-406	Capacitor, 20 mfd	C8-20L
C-407	Same as C-105	
C-408	Capacitor, 1.0 mfd Supplied with - - -	TR-17
FU-1	Fuse - 1.5 amperes, 3 AG	FU-8
ME-1	Meter, 200 ma	ME-6
	*The Following Items are used on Model 410-C, Only	
ME-1	*Meter, 200 ma illuminated, single contact	ME-6C
RE-1	*Relay	RL-3
SR-7	*Rectifier, 0.6 amperes	RF-7
SW-5	*Switch, Push Button, normally closed	SW-35

REPLACEABLE PARTS LIST - MODEL 410, 410-C

Circuit Desig.	Description			Part No.
SR-1	Rectifier, Selenium	130 V.	65 ma	RF-18
SR-2	Rectifier, Selenium	130 V.	65 ma	RF-18
SR-3	Rectifier, Selenium	130 V.	65 ma	RF-18
SR-4	Rectifier, Selenium	130 V.	65 ma	RF-18
SR-5	Rectifier, Selenium	130 V.	65 ma	RF-18
SR-6	Rectifier, Selenium	130 V.	65 ma	RF-18
T-1	Transformer, Regulating - Sola #71354			TR-17
V-1	Tube, Vacuum	#5886		EV-5886-5
V-2	Tube, Vacuum	#5886		EV-5886-6
V-3	Tube, Vacuum	6 CB 6		EV-6CB6
V-4	Tube, Vacuum	6 CB 6		EV-6CB6
V-5	Tube, Vacuum	6 CM 6		EV-6CM6
V-6	Tube, Vacuum	OB 2		EV-OB2
V-7	Tube, Vacuum	OB 2		EV-OB2



NOTE: VOLTAGES MARKED ( ) MEASURED WITH OUTPUT ZEROED WITH VTVM.

MODEL 410C MICROMICROAMMETER
CIRCUIT SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM

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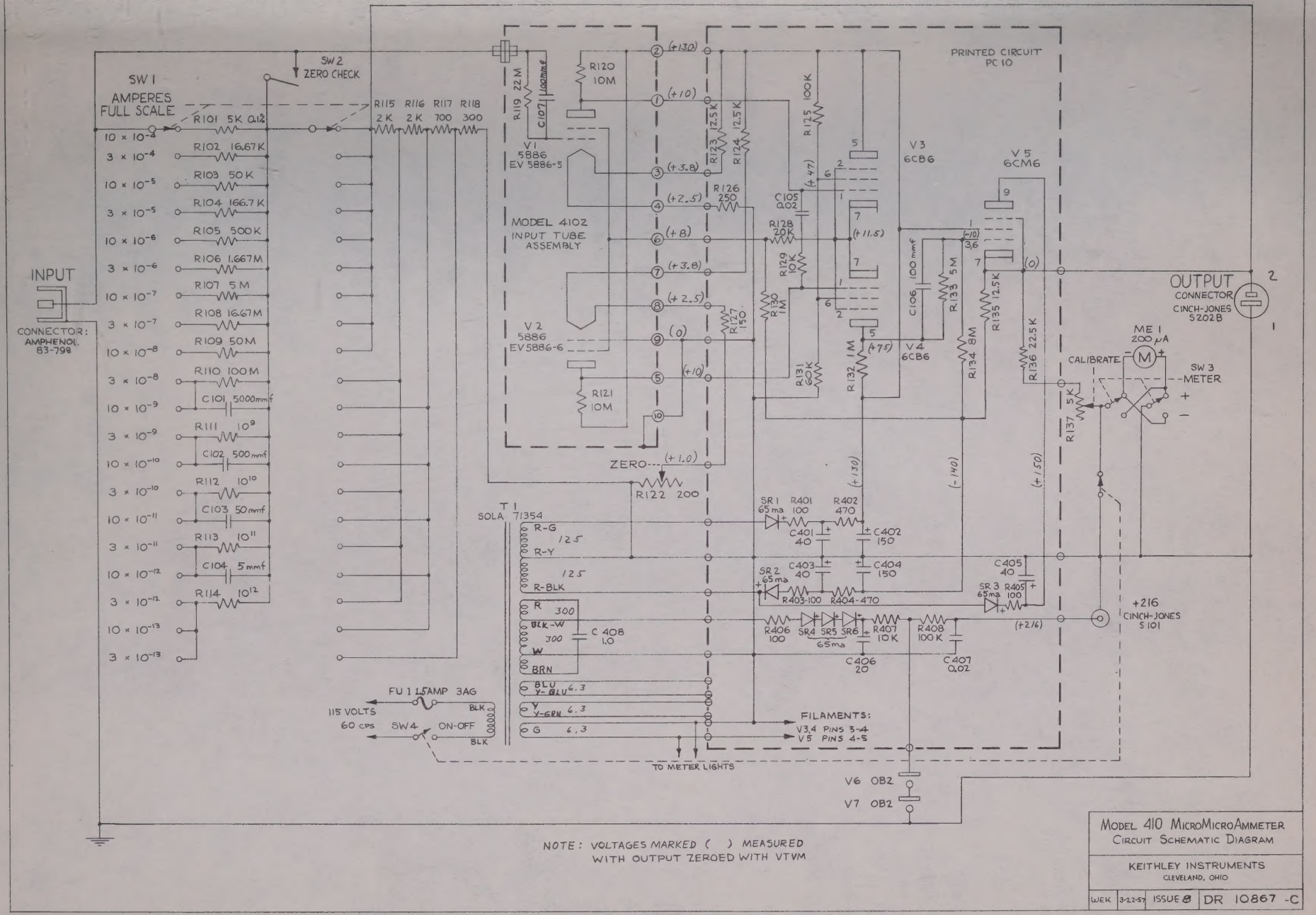

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CIRCUIT SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM

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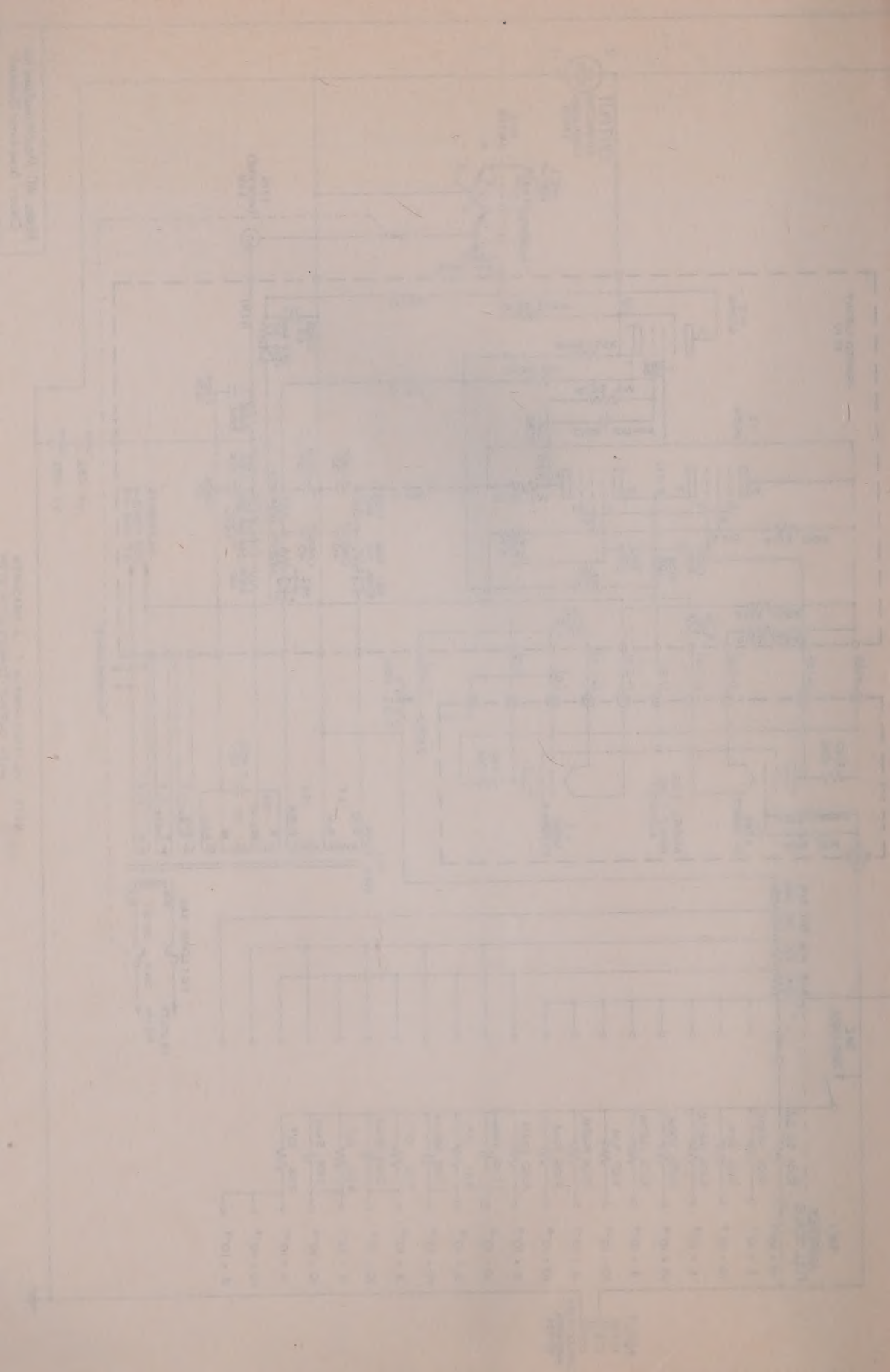

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